The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
October 22, 1999

Kudos to volunteer Jack MacDonald

Jack MacDonald, a ten-year volunteer in Anthropology, has just been appointed as an Associate in Anthropology for a five-year term in recognition of his productive association with The Field Museum.

• Papua New Guinea •

Jack assists John Terrell and Rob Welsch in their research on the Sepik Coast of Papua New Guinea as part of the A.B. Lewis Project. He has made several trips there in support of The Field Museum's New Guinea Research Program, the latest following the devastating tsunami (tidal wave) of July 1998.

During the past three years Jack has contributed over 1,400 hours to our New Guinea program. Besides his research work, he has been willing to help the education department with South Pacific Hall training, to give Museum tours for the President's office, and to assist at programs for the Collections Committee.

The Museum is indeed fortunate to have such an outstanding volunteer as Jack. In addition, he shares his volunteer commitment with the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Just last week he was featured in a *Chicago Tribune* article about his years of experience leading walking tours of the Loop for CAF. You can see this piece on the staff and volunteer bulletin board near the HR office.

We offer our congratulations and sincere thanks to Jack!

Submitted by **Patricia Stratton**

FIELD NOTES

Week of October 25

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m, Special Events

Public Events

Music in the Park
- Friday all day, Stanley Field Hall

Education Overnight
- Friday evening to Saturday morning

Harvest Fest
- Saturday and Sunday

The **Natural News** is edited by Rodger Patience in the Development department. Call ext. 7286 or e-mail *patience* with stories, news, events, or any item of interest to the Museum community.

NEW!!
Deadline for each week's issue is now **Wednesday** at noon.
NEW!!

EXHIBITS

New temporary exhibitions coordinator named

The Temporary Exhibitions department is pleased to welcome Rene Arceo to The Field Museum. He comes to us from the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum (MFACM) where he worked for the last 13 years in various capacities, including Special Projects Director (1996-99) and Arts Director (1991-96). He is responsible for curating over 25 exhibitions for MFACM and contributing to the selection process of exhibitions, performances and the acquisitions for the MFACM's permanent collection. He will work as coordinator of temporary exhibitions. Rene will be coordinating **Chocolate!**, the Marae Gallery shows, and **Endurance**.

Rene sits on the fourth floor with the other temporary exhibitions coordinators and can be reached at ext. 7331 or by email at rarceo@fmnh.org.

Submitted by Abigail Sinwell

Chocolate! team makes a "sweet" trip

Chocolate! exhibition team members Rene Arceo, Anamari Golf, and Teresa Murray returned last week from a trip to Oaxaca and Villahermosa, Mexico. In Oaxaca, the team purchased objects for the planned exhibition, visited a chocolate factory, and attended chocolate-related lectures and demonstrations.

Anamari and Teresa traveled on to Villahermosa where they skirted the flooding that has displaced families in the area due to the recent earthquake. Despite the conditions, they were able to visit a fermentation plant and cacao plantation, and interviewed farmers and local women who use the cacao bean to create a variety of foods and beverages.

The team documented the trip with extensive film and video. Watch for an upcoming presentation.

Chocolate! is an exhibition being developed by The Field Museum in partnership with Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).

Submitted by Anamari Golf

EDUCATION

Staff and volunteers are invited to attend:

Persistence, Change, and Meaning in Pacific Art:
A Retrospective View with an Eye Toward the Future
Philip J.C. Dark, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology
Southern Illinois University

Friday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m.
Please call ext. 7400 for more information.

Philip J.C. Dark has long been one of the leading American scholars studying art and culture in the Pacific. Trained at the University of London and Yale University, he taught Anthropology at Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)for many years and has been a Research Associate at The Field Museum since 1963. His richly illustrated slide lecture reflects on what he has learned about Melanesian art from his studies over the past 40 years. He will consider artists, art styles, and continuities in Melanesian art, assessing directions for future research.

Soon It Will Look and Feel Like Winter

Service Fence will be installing the fence at the North and South Entrances on November 1, 1999.

Ivan Carlson will be installing the holiday decorations on November 11, 12, 15, 16, and 17.

If you have any concerns, please call the Public Services at extension 7911.

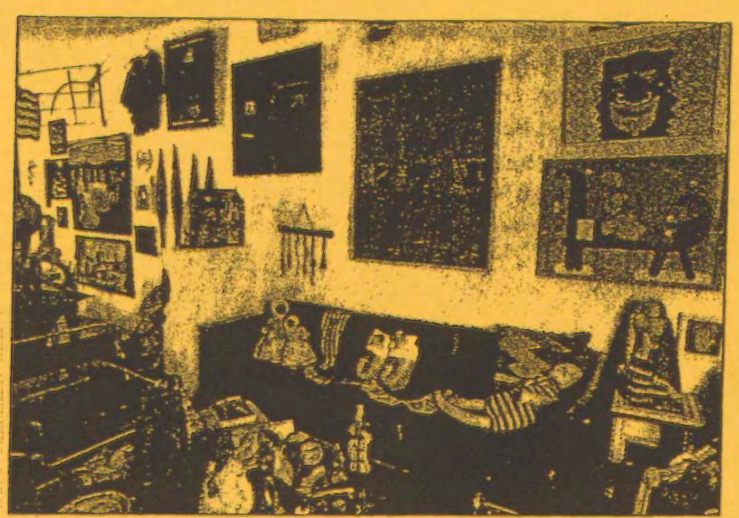
CHICAGO ARTISTS' MONTH

CHICAGO ARTISTS' MONTH
AT THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE ROGER BROWN STUDY COLLECTION

A slide/lecture
to be presented by Lisa Stone,
Curator of the collection
Tuesday: November 9, 1999
12:15 p.m.
HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY CENTER
VIDEO THEATRE

For Information call: 312.747.4800



View of living room, The Roger Brown Study Collection.
Photo: Michael Lombardi.

www.chipublib.org
THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY:
Read, Learn, Discover!

PLEASE CALL FOR ACCOMMODATION:
(312) 747-4252 (VOICE)
(312) 747-4066 (TTY)

JAYNE CARR THOMPSON
President, Board of Directors
MARY A. DEMPSEY
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City of Chicago
RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor

1999

November

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10/13/99	1 Bayer Corp.-SFH 7:00PM-11:00PM 1000 Acolp-Siragusa Ctr 6:00pm-10:00pm 200 SStott-JST 5:00pm-10:00pm 300	2 KWebber-Ed-JST 2pm-10pm LNimi-Rice/Cartier 6:30pm-9:30pm	3 JFrazier-Ed-Rice/Africa 3::30pm-6:00pm Citizens for George Ryan-SFH/Bal 6:00pm-10:00pm 500 LSanders-Siragusa Ctr/Cartier 5:30pm-7:30pm Eduarda-Ed-JST 8am-3pm	4 Vedder-Price-SFH/JST/Mward Hall-5:30pm-12am 750 Mdenardo-Sounds of the Vault/Living Together 9am-1:30pm	5 AICC 25* Anniv.-SFH/Bal/JST 6:30pm-10:30pm 900	6 Inter Dyslexia Assoc-SFH/JST 7:00pm-10:00pm 700 LNimi-Ed-Cartier Act. Day-SFH 9am-5pm Smurphy-Rice 11:00am-2:00pm
7 AGeppert-Chg Humanities Fest-JST 7am-8pm Mdenardo-Whole Museum Noon-4pm	8 U. of I. Sch of Pub. Health-SFH-6pm-8pm LSanders-Cartier/Wlobby 9am-1pm JFrazier-SFH /Rice 10am-1pm	9 Unitech Systems-SFH 6:00pm-10:00pm 250 JFrazier-SFH/Ricve 10am-1pm	10 Business Exchange-SFH 5pm-7pm 300 LSanders-Siragusa Ctr/Sounds of the Vault 5:30pm-9:00pm 110	11 ICarlson-Installing Holiday Deco BAdams-Siragusa Ctr 6:00pm-10:00pm	12 Ed-Overnight Icarlson-Installing Holiday Decor	13 Arthur Andersen-SFH 7:00pm-11:00pm 1000 Agepert-Chg Humanities Fest-JST 7am-8pm LNimi-Rice/Front of Cartier 11am-2pm
14 Ageppert-Chg Humanities Fest-JST 7am-8pm BAdams-JST 4pm-10pm Bears Game-Noon	15 Jeagleton-Undergrd Adv 5pm-3pm Tues. Jblock-Founders Rm ICarlson-Installing Holiday Decor	16 ICarlson-Installing Holiday Décor Jeagleton-Undergrd Adv until 3pm LSanders-Balcony/Gems/Jades/Cartier 3pm-8pm 50 LNimi-Cartier 8pm-9:30pm BAdams-JST 4pm-10pm	17 ICarlson-Installing Holiday Décor LSanders-Cartier /SFH 5:00pm-9:30pm	18 Awali-SFH 6pm-10pm Mburns-Rice 3pm-6pm 200 Mdenardo-JST 8am-Midnight	19 Lucent Technologies-SFH	20 Consolidated Benefits-SFH Dino Fest 11:00-3:00PM Lmiller-JST 6:30pm-10:30pm
21 Dino Fest 11:00-3:00pm SStott-JST 11:00am-3:00pm	22 Dino Fest 11:00-3:00pm Mdenardo-JST 8am-5pm 500	23 Jthymes-SFH 8am-2pm 40 Mdenardo-JST 8am-5pm 500	24 Ernst- Electrical Maintenance 6pm-8am(Thursday)	25 Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Hall Activities- 11am-3pm	26 Thanksgiving Hall Activities-11am-3pm Mdenardo-JST 12Noon-12Midnight	27 Thanksgiving Hall Activities-11am-3pm Ed-Overnight Mdenardo-JST 12mindight-5pm
28 Thanksgiving Hall Activities-10am-3pm Mdenardo-JST	29 AGFA-Whole Museum 6pm-9pm 3000 Mdenardo-JST	30 SPowell-Siragusa Ctr 4pm-12am				

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Illustrators attend conference, receive award

This year's Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Conference in Richland, Washington was attended by Marlene Hill Donnelly (Geology) and Clara Simpson (Zoology). Clara moderated a panel on traditional and digital hybrid illustration techniques. Marlene presented a workshop on carbon dust technique, and demonstrated white and black stipple. Her stipple illustration for Olivier Rieppel of "Placodont, new species" won two awards and will be added to the Guild's traveling exhibit.

Submitted by Carter O'Brien

Thanks to Field Museum staff for help on The Oakton Project exhibit

The Center for Cultural Understanding and Change has been working with The Oakton Project, an non-profit organization located in Evanston, to develop and produce an exhibit based on The Oakton Project's process of building community through community performance, funded by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. This endeavor takes community partnership, exhibit development, and public education into a new direction by creating an off-site, temporary exhibition.

CCUC could not have met this challenge without the support of Field Museum staff. We offer many, many thanks to Kent Peaslee, Matt Matcuk, Jean Cattell, Michael Burns, Ray Leo, Rich Faron, Sophia Shaw, and Felisia Wesson. Thanks also to Encarnacion Turuel and John Frazier.

The exhibit's content draws on extensive research conducted by CCUC ethnographer Rebecca Severson, who has documented and analyzed the process of The Oakton Project over the past year.

The Oakton Project exhibition will open at Oakton Elementary School, 436 Ridge Avenue, Evanston TONIGHT from 6 to 8 p.m. ALL ARE INVITED! The exhibition will be at the school for about four weeks, before traveling to other venues in the Chicago area. In addition, a performance of The Oakton Project's "Crossroads" will be held at The Field Museum on December 11 in The Siragusa Center.

Submitted by Madeleine Tudor and Alaka Wali

Mueller's mushroom web site featured by Internet Scout Project

Greg Mueller's site, "The Mushroom Genus Laccaria in North America," was chosen as a selection for the Scout Report for Science & Engineering (Sept. 15, 1999), the premier biweekly collection of useful Internet sites for researchers, educators, and students in the life sciences, physical sciences, and engineering. The Scout Report's target audience is science and engineering academics: faculty, students, staff, and librarians.

The Internet Scout Project, which creates the Scout Report, is an NSF-funded, university-based project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Scout Report summarizes 25 websites featuring noteworthy research (including government) organizations, high-quality research/education resources, academic discussion sites (listservs), new scientific journals (or newly online journals with completely free access), newly released databases with free access, new grants and job opportunities, upcoming scientific meetings, recent academic publications, and a host of other topics.

Go to the Scout Report for Science & Engineering home page at: http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/report/sci-eng/current/index.html.

Speaking of mushrooms . . .

We're looking for all new recipes for the 1999 FMNH Staff and Volunteer Cookbook, to be titled "Oven-Browned Adventure."

Please send them in any form at all to Mary Anne Rogers in the Division of Fishes (ext. 7732, mrogers@fmnh.org) or to Elaine Zeiger in the Geology department (ext. 7627, ezeiger@fmnh.org)

Newton and Thayer return from Mexico

Al Newton and Margaret Thayer completed five weeks of field and museum work in Mexico, accompanied by their colleague José Luis Navarrete of the University of Guadalajara. The focus of the trip was to help wrap up an identification guide to the 350+ genera of staphylinid beetles of Mexico, which all three have been working on since 1992 together with Field Museum research associate Don Chandler (University of New Hampshire) and former curator Steve Ashe (University of Kansas). The guide, funded in part by a CONABIO grant to Navarrete, is nearly complete and scheduled for publication in Mexico next year. It should greatly facilitate work on staphylinids in Mexico, where only 20% of the 5000 species estimated to occur there have been named, as well as in Central and South America where most of the same genera occur.

During three weeks of intensive field work with Navarrete and other Mexican students, mainly in the southwestern states of Jalisco and Colima which are not well collected for Staphylinidae, the team made more than 230 collections including 50 bulk samples (from traps and litter extraction, containing thousands of specimens each). Al and Margaret were also able to visit five major Mexican insect collections and meet five of the six students currently working on Staphylinidae in Mexico. The field and museum work has already added at least one genus and several species to the known Mexican fauna and extended the known range of others, with more discoveries expected as the large samples are sorted. They were also able to collect and borrow numerous millipedes for Petra Sierwald's millipede PEET project.

The trip was accompanied by more than the usual number of natural disasters—Hurricane Greg washed out roads to some of the planned sites in Jalisco and Colima including the main coastal highway between these states, the disastrous flooding of early October eliminated the last three days of field work in eastern Mexico, and an earthquake hit central Mexico the day they visited one UNAM collection and forced evacuation of the building. Although there is no hard evidence linking Al and Margaret's presence in these locales to the disasters, the phenomenon is reportedly being investigated by the FBI's X-Files Project.

Many thanks for help with Pacific Arts Association events

The Pacific Arts Association convened a special session at The Field Museum on Wednesday, October 20 to honor the career and accomplishments of long-time Field Museum research associate, Dr. Philip J. C. Dark. John McCarter, Gary Feinman, John Terrell, and Phil Lewis greeted session participants in the Maori House, followed by a reception in the Library Reading Room. On Thursday, October 21, several richly illustrated lectures were held in Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall 1. A screening of Pacific art videos accompanied an exhibit of Pacific ethnological photos in Lecture Hall 2. Tonight, Dr. Dark, a research associate at the Field Museum since 1963, is to present a lecture on Pacific art. This event is followed by a festive luau hosted by the Collections Committee.

Adjunct curator Rob Welsch, the conference organizer, and Anthropology department chair Gary Feinman wish to thank the following people who have generously contributed their time and energy to make this series of events a success: Jack MacDonald, Nina Cummings, Martina Hough, Sheila Wheatley, Ben Williams, Elizabeth Adams, Steve Nash, Jon Rogers, Elisa Aguilar-Kutza, Stephanie Powell, Janet Young, Charles Benton and the many dedicated members of the Collections Committee.

Submitted by Sheila Wheatley

EXHIBITS

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Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Dear Mr. McCarter:

I recently made a two-week trip to The Field Museum as part of my ongoing research on the origins of animal domestication in the Near East. This is my second research visit to The Field Museum. Both visits have been extraordinarily productive due, in large measure, to the peerless collections of the Field, and to the professionalism and generosity of your staff.

My research includes the reanalysis of all curated collections from the eastern fertile crescent (today's Iran and Iraq) that span the transition period from hunting to herding, from the Late Pleistocene to the early Holocene. The National Museum of Natural History has substantial zooarchaeological collections … that were excavated in the 1960s and 70s before political circumstances closed the region to western expeditions.

Also central to my research has been excavations curated by The Field Museum, which are among the largest and most valuable for this kind of research in the world. These remarkable collections have recently been brought together from their initial repositories in three departments, and beautifully rehoused by your Department of Geology.

As I am sure you are aware, museum collections are only valuable if they are accessible, and this is where The Field Museum really shines. My contacts with the Museum have included staff of three different departments—Anthropology, Geology, and Zoology. All have been professional, productive, and helpful. My initial contacts with **David Reese** and **Catherine Sease** in anthropology were critical in tracking down the Field's important zooarchaeological holdings. So often these collections fall through the cracks in museums—bridging, as they do, the disciplines of archaeology, paleontology, and zoology. Over the years David Reese has been a champion of these collections and has, with the cooperation of people like **Bill Turnbull** and **Charlie Reed**, helped give them a permanent and wonderfully accessible home in Geology.

Deborah Bakken, formerly of Geology and now in your Sponsored Programs office, helped orient me to the new location of these collections and made important contacts with key staff. In Geology, **Bill Simpson** and **Carter O'Brien** made the process of getting access for my large team look easy. **Ann Kehoe** and the other staff in the fossil vertebrate prep lab showed us remarkable hospitality and thoughtfulness, despite the extraordinary effort they are now making to meet the deadlines of the SUE Project.

In Zoology, **Larry Heaney** was my original contact in getting access to the substantial caprine collections. **Bill Stanley** helped me on my return visit this summer, and **Michi Solomon** contributed her time and her knowledge of the collections, greatly facilitating our work.

I know that visitors take a lot of time and museum support staff are always pulled by many different demands. My visits have been particularly challenging, as they have involved multiple departments and included large teams of researchers. Throughout both visits your staff has shown a remarkable degree of helpfulness, good cheer, and positive energy. They have been a key element in my research, critical in helping me accomplish my perhaps overly ambitious research goals. They have also helped make the work a great deal of fun.

With profound gratitude to The Field Museum and its staff,

Dr. Melinda A. Zeder
Curator of Old World Archaeology and Zooarchaeology
National Museum of Natural History
The Smithsonian Institution

NEWS YOU CAN USE

TRAFFIC & PARKING ALERT • Sunday October 24
LaSalle Banks Chicago Marathon

The LaSalle Banks Chicago Marathon will be taking place Sunday October 24, 1999. Approximately 30,000 marathoners are expected to participate in the event. Please note that because the Marathon begins and ends close to the Museum Campus, the Soldier Field parking lots will be near capacity. Signs will be placed on the Campus directing marathoners from the parking lot to the starting line at Columbus and Jackson

Special museum program attendees may be encouraged to park in the Adler lot and take the trolleys. The parking lot trolleys will be in operation but the CTA/Campus Trolleys will not be, due to the many street closures in the area. The street closures around the Campus will be in effect from 4 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Soldier Field Parking

The parking lots will be open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Race Day. Parking is $10 for the day. Free shuttle bus service will be provided from the Soldier Field parking lots to the Start/Finish area in Grant Park.

After the race, shuttles will be available to take participants and spectators back to the Soldier Field parking lots. Buses will pick-up runners at the southeast corner of Jackson and Columbus Drives. The last shuttle bus will leave from Grant Park to Soldier Field at 2:30 p.m.

For additional information visit the Marathon web site:
http://www.chicagomarathon.com

Minutes from October 1999 Kaffeeklatsch meeting

Johanna Krynytzky from Education reminded everyone of the Museum's upcoming Field of Screams Film Series. *The Ghost and the Darkness* will be shown on Saturday, October 23, at 7 p.m., *Them* will be shown on Oct 30 at 7 p.m. and *The Relic* will be shown on Sunday, October 31, at 7 p.m. Please contact the Education Department at ext. 7400 for information and tickets.

Randy Scalf from Membership recapped the Members' Preview of Cartier by saying that all slots were sold during the opening weekend of the Cartier exhibit.

Anita Purnell from Visitor Services reminded everyone of the 10/8/99 power outage and that everyone should remember to turn off and unplug all equipment.

Mary Johnson of Zoology invited all staff to attend the seminars presented by the Academic Affairs vice presidential candidates. Seminar topics, locations, and times are posted throughout the Museum. This is an excellent way to get to know the Academic Affairs candidates and also to learn about the various topics presented.

Larry Heaney from Zoology reminded everyone of the Facilities Advisory Group and to please submit any information or issues to Julie Baker at ext. 7271

Maria Burns from Human Resources gave the dates for upcoming events:

- Movie Night dates are: October 13, November 17 & January 12.
- The 1999 Holiday Fest is on December 15, 1999.
- The Employee Service Recognition Ceremony will be held on November 18 at 3 p.m.
- The Chicago Blackhawks Staff Outing will be held on February 16, 2000 at 7:30 p.m.

Maria also announced that the format of the employee service recognition ceremony would change to include an invitation for all staff to come and be a part of recognizing fellow co-workers.